

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL

# Weavings

*Women making a difference*

WINTER 2025

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, likely belonging to a woman, gently cupping a small, vibrant green seedling. The seedling has several leaves and a small amount of dark, rich soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with sunlight filtering through. The text 'Sharing seeds of hope' is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

*Sharing*  
seeds of *hope*

The Magazine of the  
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Dominican Convent of  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Office of Communications  
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## WINTER 2025

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## From the Prioress ...

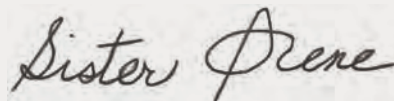
Dear Friends,

We wish you and your loved ones continued health and prosperity in 2025!

Pope Francis recently noted that hope is a gift that comes from God. This issue of *Weavings* reminds us that there are many reasons for us to be people of hope, to work for the good that is possible. Our prayer and efforts for justice are part of our calling to be responsible stewards of God's creation and of the people in our care. Since 1876, we have been honored to share this gift of hope with those most in need.

As this Annual Report comes to you, I want you to know that your prayers and support have meant a great deal to us and give us hope to continue serving others, planting seeds of justice, preaching truth, and advocating respect for all. Your prayers, partnership, and friendship with us sustain us in our ministry to care for the most vulnerable as we proclaim the Reign of God through our lives and compassionate service. By donating to our Sisters and Associates, you become a coworker and participate significantly with us in our Mission and ministry to make a positive difference in the world.

With gratitude and hope,



Sister Irene Ellis, OP  
Prioress



**SISTER IRENE ELLIS, OP**  
Prioress, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

*“May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy  
and peace, so that  
you may abound in  
hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit.”*

— Romans 15: 13



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**Gratitude and thanks for your donations and prayers.**





# Do I really expect to ARRIVE?

THREADS OF WISDOM  
AND GRACE ...

OLEH, SLOBODENIUK/GETTY IMAGES

There is a wonderful line from the poem  
“Boast of Quietness” by Jorge Luis Borges:

*I walk slowly, like one who comes from  
so far away he doesn't expect to arrive.*

I'm embarrassed to admit that this description reminds me of the way I have often approached the season of Lent. Sometimes I “walk” the weeks of Lent like I really don't expect Easter! I drag myself along, looking as though I haven't really heard that Jesus has conquered death. Do I let the thought of the distance I must travel defeat me before I even begin? Indeed, what kind of pilgrim am I? Do I really expect to arrive at the destination? In this year that Pope Francis has designated as a *Jubilee Year of Hope*, do I reflect its theme of “Pilgrims of Hope”?

During our Lenten journey this year, we also celebrate the feast of the Annunciation on March 25. Perhaps I need to look to Mary as my model for being “a pilgrim on the road of hope” from the moment that she uttered the trust-filled “yes” that brought Jesus into our world, she “walked” her life journey, trusting that God's word would be fulfilled. She was steadfast, even in the face of trials and dashed hopes. When she didn't understand, she trusted. Mary truly walked like she expected to arrive at the place God had promised. Let us follow her lead as we journey toward Easter! ●



**SISTER MARGARET PALLISER, OP**

Sister Margaret earned a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and is the director of the Congregation's Office of Dominican Life.

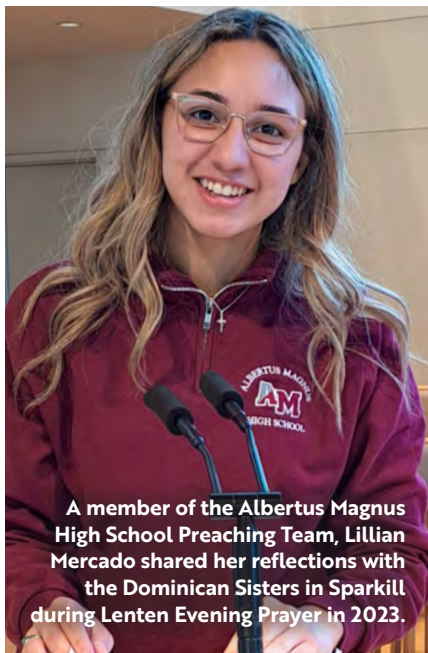


**In 2026 the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill will celebrate 150 years of being joyful women of prayer and compassion who proclaim the reign of God through ministry for justice and reverence for all creation.**

# Lillian's Journey TO THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

**L**illian Mercado could never have imagined where her passion for her Catholic faith, social justice, and community service would lead her this year. With a group of her Fordham University classmates, Lillian journeyed to Rome in October to experience firsthand the Synod on Synodality convened by Pope Francis.

For her alma mater, Albertus Magnus High School, Lillian's participation in the Synod at the Vatican is a proud moment. It reflects the strong foundation of faith and education that Albertus Magnus students receive, and the powerful impact of Catholic education in shaping young people who are not only academically accomplished but also deeply committed to their faith.



A member of the Albertus Magnus High School Preaching Team, Lillian Mercado shared her reflections with the Dominican Sisters in Sparkill during Lenten Evening Prayer in 2023.

In addition to her theology classes, Lillian was very active in Campus Ministry where she was an active member of the Preaching Team, participating in events, retreats, and service projects that shaped her spiritual life. "Sister Diane McSherry, our Campus Ministry Director, and my theology teachers Mr. McKenna, Mrs. Borges, and Mrs. Costello really emphasized sharing our gifts with the world and with the school as a whole," she explained. "Campus Ministry activities gave me a passion to continue learning about my faith in action. They got me interested in learning more about theology because they gave me an understanding of what theology is: put into practice, theology is about forming community and sharing God's light with others."

## How it all began

A 2023 graduate of Albertus Magnus High School in Bardonia, NY, Lillian is now a sophomore at Fordham University. An English major, preparing for a career as a teacher, she has already elected to take two theology courses: Catholic Social Teaching and an American Catholic Studies course on The Synod on Synodality. She credits her years at Albertus with giving her a passion for deepening her faith and understanding of Catholic theology.

## A once-in-a-lifetime experience of the global Church

When Fordham University offered its theology students the opportunity to attend the historic Synod event, Lillian eagerly embraced the opportunity. She traveled to Rome to witness firsthand the deliberations, discussions, and diverse perspectives being shared by Church leaders and laypersons from across the globe. With some 140 university students, she met with leaders of the Secretariat of the Synod.

Gathered in the Paul VI Hall, the students posed their questions, engaging directly with delegates while seated in a roundtable setup, mirroring that of the Synod itself and symbolizing Pope Francis' vision for a Church that walks together on a journey of listening and engagement.

Throughout her week in Rome, Lillian was able to experience the art of listening, discerning, and working as a community. Along with her classmates, she had opportunities to speak directly with Synod delegates over dinners, outside the



University students round tables at the Vatican for the Synod on Synodality, in dialogue with several Synod leaders, including two Latino-American delegates: Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, TX, and Sister Leticia Salazar, ODN. (PHOTO BY VATICAN NEWS)

*"I am very proud to have taught Lilly, who consistently seeks to deepen her faith. When I participated in two summer outreach weeks with her, I personally witnessed her genuine passion for serving those in need."* — Maureen Costello, theology teacher, Albertus Magnus High School





Lillian and the members of the Fordham University student delegation outside the Church of Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Rome.

*“It is joy to see one of our graduates so actively engaged in the Church’s mission on a global scale. We at Albertus Magnus are proud of Lillian for representing our faith community so well at such a significant moment in the life of the Church.”*

– Sister Diane McSherry, OP, Campus Minister, Albertus Magnus High School

Vatican gate and inside the Jesuit Curia. She was also thrilled to be able to visit the historic churches where the remains of St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Aloysius Gonzaga are venerated.

For Lillian, attending the Synod was more than just an academic or cultural opportunity—it was a spiritual and transformative experience. In a reflection on her time in Rome, she writes, “The Synod means to walk together as a church through listening, learning and divestment. Learning and observing the Synod on Synodality in Rome has been a transformative experience for me.”

### Looking to the future

As Lillian continues her studies at Fordham University, she remains inspired by what she learned at the Synod and has great hope for the Catholic Church of the future. She recognizes how important it is to listen to one another and to work together to continue to build that Church. She currently not only remains active in her home parish, but she is also involved in Fordham’s Campus Ministry as a Eucharistic minister, lector, hospitality minister, and a member of the University’s retreat team and its Catholic Life Board.

Through her experience at the Synod, Lillian had the chance to engage in both formal and informal discussions about the role of young people in the Church, the importance of inclusivity, and the need for a more synodal, or collaborative, approach to Church leadership. The experience has deepened

*“Through listening and discernment, I gained insight on the exciting future for the Catholic Church. Pope Francis is moving toward a listening, learning, and inclusive Catholic Church. Synodality will impact the way Bishops lead their churches. I am hopeful that the Synod is the beginning of a long walk to unity. For my part, I aspire to bring synodality into my own local parish, to the Fordham University community, and to my teaching Catechism to my class of third graders at St. Ignatius Loyola parish.”*

— Lillian Mercado

her commitment to serving the Church and inspired her to think critically about her role in shaping its future.

Lillian was especially impressed by the Synod’s methodology of “conversation in the Spirit.” “Delegates told me about their experience of being at the round table: how profound it is to sit back, let go of pre-judgments, and intently listen, opening one’s heart to conversion. I took this with me, and I’m practicing it now in my own life—asking people questions and just listening and not having pre-judgments. Since I’ve come back from Rome, I’ve facilitated a ‘conversation in the Spirit’ at MaryHouse Catholic Worker House in New York. It is amazing to see how many different perspectives people have on questions about the Catholic Church. Having

all the perspectives ‘on the table’ helps us to become a more universal Church.”

Lillian’s participation in the Synod on Synodality is a striking testament to the lasting impact of a strong Catholic education and the power of young people to shape the future of the Church. Her personal journey reminds us of the importance of listening, learning, and growing together as a community of faith. The Dominican Sisters look forward to seeing the many ways Lillian will continue to inspire and lead others into the future. ●

“Synod” comes from the Greek *syn* (“with”) and *hodos* (“path”). An ancient word in the Church’s tradition, “synod” indicates the path along which the People of God walk together. The Synod on Synodality gathered bishops and laypersons from across the globe to discern the future the Catholic Church, with a focus on inclusivity, listening, and shared decision-making. The event was the culmination of multi-year process and represents a significant step in Pope Francis’ vision of a more open and participatory Church. The Synod on Synodality is already beginning to have a profound impact on how the global Catholic community moves forward in faith and practice.



# Continuity In Mission

BY SISTER PATRICIA BRODERICK, OP

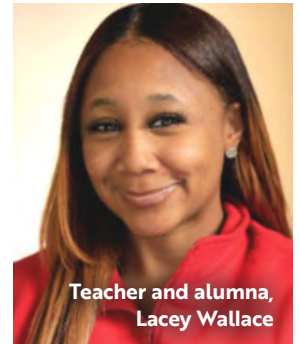
**Recalling Dr. Seuss and his book, *Oh the Places You'll Go*, I compare that title to my many years as a Board member for two of the Cardinal McCloskey Community Services (CMCS) Boards of Directors. During eighteen years as a Board member, I have witnessed the growth of many new programs created to meet the needs of children and adults in Westchester, Rockland, the Bronx, and East Harlem. Today services are offered to clients ranging from newborn children to the elderly.**

The foster care program has been run by Cardinal McCloskey Community Services for many years. Beth Finnerty, CEO of CMCS, felt that the children in foster care deserved a good education provided in a safe environment. In 2016, Beth, working with others in the administration, petitioned New York State for permission to open a specialized charter school for children in foster care and for underserved students. When permission was received to start the long process, the seed of hope was planted, and when space became available in Aquinas High School, that news was received as a blessing.

In September 2019, Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School (CMCCS) welcomed the first 150 students—three kindergarten classes and three first grades. Thus began a partnership with Aquinas HS and McCloskey and the promise of a brighter educational future for children in need. As of

June 2024, the student body of CMCCS consists of 450 students in kindergarten to grade five.

The students proudly wear uniforms provided by an anonymous donor, and their classes are conducted in a clean environment supplied with attractive furnishings and state-of-the-art digital technology. Every class has a teacher and an assistant teacher. Two of the teachers are graduates of Aquinas High School who have returned to their beloved Alma Mater to continue the mission of educating children. Innovations in the curriculum are created to meet specialized needs. Grades 1, 2, and 3 have a "Discovery Class" for gifted students, and September 2024 introduced a dual-language class in kindergarten taught by a bilingual teacher and an English-speaking teacher. All materials are in Spanish and English. Thanks to the dedicated staff, the atmosphere of the school is warm, welcoming, and challenging, designed to foster the growth of young minds.



Teacher and alumna,  
Lacey Wallace

The neighboring community is very supportive of the school. Every October the school hosts a block party where youngsters and adults gather to play board games, enjoy face painting or basketball, and savor the barbecue. During the party, a ticket



*“Strive to protect, empower and promote independence for at-risk children and support safety, permanency, stability for children placed in foster care.”*

— Cardinal McCloskey Community Services Mission Statement

*“Educating and inspiring young women for a lifetime of faith, learning and compassionate action.”*

— Aquinas High School Mission Statement



is given to each child and three times during the event a number is called. The winning ticket holder receives a new bicycle, one of several bikes CMCS received through a grant. Of the many social events that take place at the school, the most popular are Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations. Each parent is given a small token as a thank you for their participation in and support of their child's education. These celebrations are warm and memorable for both parents and children.

The CMCCS administration worked hard to forge partnerships with Fordham University, Teach for America, Monroe College, and Lehman College. Teach for America is so impressed with the school that they plan to use it as their summer training site for student teachers. Fordham University's Center for Education Partnerships conducts professional development for the school staff throughout the school year. The feedback from the staff is very positive.

For decades, Aquinas HS has provided an education for young women and a doorway to a successful future. The torch has been passed to a younger generation who will follow in the spirit of the Aquinites. The mission created by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill continues under the leadership of dedicated individuals committed to providing a supportive education that will provide the necessary skills and character development for a happy, productive future for some of God's most vulnerable children. ●



***“Committed to serving at-risk students in foster care through a rigorous program of instruction utilizing a trauma-informed Sanctuary Approach.”***

— Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School  
Mission Statement



Sister Shanz Nazir, OP (front) leads a Christmas pageant.

## A Day in the Life *at Loreto*

Nestled in the Diocese of Multan, Pakistan, Loreto is a place where faith, community, and service come together. Sitting quietly in the rustic convent, Sister Shahnaz Nazir, OP, listens to the birds chirping outside. Mornings often begin with the sound of the church bell calling her before dawn, signaling the start of a new day in this peaceful village. Unlike Sister Shahnaz's upbringing in the bustling city, Loreto offers expansive fields and towering trees, where she has found a true home.

Sister Shahnaz's journey to Loreto began in 2009 when she arrived with Sisters Monica and Nusrat Lewis. The serene surroundings, rich with greenery and the hum of nature, were unlike anything she had known before. "The first time I arrived was summer," Sister Shahnaz recalls. "There were dust storms, the trees and leaves had fallen, and the electricity was out. But despite it all, I felt excitement. This was a new place, and I was eager to learn and grow here." Her early days in Loreto were marked by a deep connection to the community and its welcoming spirit.

Each morning, Sister Shahnaz rises at 5 a.m. and in the summer, prayers start at 5:30 a.m., with the soft morning light revealing the beauty of the village. The sound of birds and water flowing through tube wells fills the air, adding to the serene atmosphere. Mass begins the day and is attended by villagers—many older people, some schoolchildren, and young adults. Afterward, Sister Shahnaz and her fellow Sisters return to the convent for

*Continued on next page*



Grace Farwell and Sister Shahnaz extend a gift to Miss Sunila (left).

breakfast, with bread from the Loreto Girls Hostel, before heading to their schools.

Sister Shahnaz is deeply involved in teaching and leadership at Ibn-e-Mariam Primary and High School. Sister Catherine Bashir, OP, expertly manages both schools, while Sister Naseem George, OP, provides teaching and moral guidance. Every Saturday, Sister Naseem holds counseling sessions aimed at helping students improve their behavior and focus on their studies. Together, these Sisters form a small but impactful team.

The high school serves about 400 students, while the nearby primary school educates over 150 children. Although the girls' hostel now houses fewer students due to free government schooling, it still provides refuge for seven students, including younger children in grades 2 to 5, who receive extra academic support.

The Sisters are committed to their students' well-being and education throughout the day. They help at the hostel, assist with homework, and act as mentors. As a small community, the Sisters are actively involved in school and parish life. In the evening, they visit the sick and elderly to offer communion, where locals, in turn, express gratitude by offering tea or cold drinks. Sister Shahnaz is often humbled by their generosity.

As the day ends, the Sisters gather for evening prayers, share a meal, and reflect on their work. It is a fulfilling day of ministry, filled with joy, gratitude, and a strong sense of community. Their unwavering commitment to their Mission is inspiring, reminding all of the transformative power of faith and service.

Loreto offers a nurturing and peaceful environment. The combination of nature and community inspires through simple joys—the sound of birds, the gentle breeze, and the warmth of those around them. Sister Shahnaz reflects that being part of Loreto has deepened her faith and understanding of the community. The generous, prayerful people here have shown her the value of giving, even if one has little to offer.

Looking ahead, Sister Shahnaz hopes the school will continue to thrive and that more students from nearby villages will recognize the value of the education and care offered at Loreto. A life of service brings new blessings every day.

Many thanks go to the Sparkill Dominican Sisters and Dominican Fathers, whose pioneering work enabled Loreto to flourish. Their dedication transformed the village from arid plains into a thriving community.

From Sparkill Dominican Mary Dunning's, 2021 book, *We Walk By Faith*:

"Father George Westwater, OP, first arrived in Loreto in 1956, and Father Terrence Quinn, OP, in 1957. Both had served in the US Navy during World War II, and their experiences were invaluable in developing the isolated Catholic village in the heart of the Thal Desert. They worked tirelessly to address the needs of the destitute Catholics who had been allotted this desert land in 1954 despite promises from the government to extend the canal system for irrigation. Father Westwater's persistence led to the government's cooperation in building tube wells, which irrigated the fields of Loreto."

"On December 16, 1958, Sparkill Dominican Sisters Margaret Catherine, Margaret Rose, and Ann Tahaney . . . began their ministry at Saint Cecilia's. The school and village grew rapidly over the next decade. By April 1959, students moved into a new school building with four classrooms, leaving behind the sand and makeshift classrooms." ●



Celebrating a Christmas program with three young women from the hostel.



# Sister Margaret Flaherty, OP

Sister Margaret Flaherty's 64-year legacy in Catholic education is a testament to her unwavering dedication to teaching, ministry, and community service. Over the decades, she has left an indelible mark on countless students, families, and colleagues. Her life of service, grounded in faith, is defined not only by professional achievement but by the deep personal connections she built with those she served.



Summer fun at St. Gregory Barbarigo in Garnerville, NY.

companion for those in the PACE program who need assistance with doctor visits. She also remains active as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Anthony's parish.

Throughout her ministry, Sister Margaret's passion for teaching shone through in her ability to connect with students across a wide range of subjects and age groups. Whether teaching math, religion, reading, or basketball, her enthusiasm was

Sister Margaret's journey began when she was a student at Aquinas High School in the Bronx where she first felt the call to dedicate her life to others. There, the Sisters who guided her spiritually, academically, and even on the basketball court, inspired her. Her face lights up when she recalls playing for the Lady Bears. These formative experiences sparked a passion for teaching, service, and sports, setting her on a path that would span more than six decades. After graduating, she entered the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill in 1958 and professed her vows in 1960. From that moment, Sister Margaret began her teaching career, marking the beginning of a lifelong commitment to education.

contagious. Her classrooms became spaces where students felt heard, respected, and encouraged to share their ideas. Her teaching approach was one of mutual respect, treating her students as equals and valuing what each one brought to the table. This openness fostered an environment where students could thrive, academically and personally.

Sister Margaret's career took her to several schools, each chapter contributing to her connection with the communities she served. She started at Saint Catherine's in Manhattan (1960-1963) before moving to Mount Carmel in Middletown, New York, where she taught first, second, and third grades from 1963 to 1966. She then taught at St. Teresa's in Woodside, Queens (1966-1969), and at St. Mary's in Fulton (1969-1971). In 1971, Sister Margaret began a 37-year tenure at St. Anthony's in Nanuet, New York, where she became not just a teacher but an integral part of the community. After a sabbatical, she returned to finish her career as a Resource Room specialist at St. Gregory Barbarigo in Garnerville.

In retirement, Sister Margaret continues to volunteer, assisting the Sisters at the Dominican Convent, taking turns on the switchboard, driving sisters to medical appointments in Rockland County, and serving as a

Sister Margaret's commitment to lifelong learning and her adaptability as a teacher set her apart. She continually sought ways to grow both personally and professionally, ensuring that her students received a dynamic and enriching education. Her ability to meet students where they were, academically and personally, made her a beloved and effective educator. Above all, Sister Margaret's legacy is defined by the relationships she built with her students and their families. She didn't simply teach academic subjects; she mentored and nurtured her students' spiritual and personal growth. Her classrooms were spaces of respect and

love, where students were encouraged to become their best selves.

Sister Margaret's legacy is a deeply rooted commitment to service, faith, and community.

Whether through her teaching, coaching, or simply offering a kind word, Sister Margaret's influence has been profound and lasting. Her legacy will endure not only in the lessons she imparted but in the many lives she touched with her smile, her dedication, and her genuine care for others. ●



Sister Margaret and Sister Chris Ferrar prepare materials at Days for Girls.



Coach of the 8th-grade basketball team at St. Anthony's in Nanuet, NY.

# A Helping Hand

BY SISTER MARY ANN BORRELLO, OP

**S**ister Mary Ann Borrello, OP, Professor Emerita at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), has long been dedicated to helping others, especially students facing financial hardship and food insecurity. With advanced degrees in anthropology and sociology, Sister Mary Ann's true passion lies in supporting people in need. Her expertise in Spiritism and her doctoral research on Puerto Rican funeral customs in New York have led her to offer consultations for judges and media outlets. However, it was her work with students that best defines her legacy.

Sister Mary Ann's awareness of poverty and community struggles began in the 1960s while teaching at St. Rita's Elementary School in the South Bronx. There, she witnessed firsthand the impact of hunger and poverty, with students arriving at school exhausted, unable to focus, and often deprived of basic needs. These experiences deeply moved her and sparked a lifelong commitment to helping students overcome adversity. Later, as she worked with college students, she saw similar challenges and felt compelled to take action, determined to provide the support needed for students to succeed despite the hardships they faced.

Sister Mary Ann began teaching at SCCC's Selden campus in 1972 and moved to the Brentwood campus in 1974. There, she started a Thanksgiving food drive to support the local community. By 1976, this initiative expanded into the college's first campus-based food pantry, located in the basement of the Brentwood campus. Over the years, this pantry grew to serve more students,



addressing the rising issue of food insecurity. Sister Mary Ann estimates that 30% of college students are affected by food insecurity today.

As a pioneer at SCCC's Brentwood campus, Sister Mary Ann became a cornerstone of the community, renowned for her unwavering commitment to addressing students' unmet needs.

When staff or students recognized someone in need, they would turn to her for help, and her response was always, "What do you need?" She worked tirelessly to find solutions, earning a reputation as a relentless advocate for others. This dedication led to the creation of her "Angels Club," where students and staff united to support one another. Sister Mary Ann also organized frequent blood drives and participated in initiatives like the March of Dimes. Known as a self-described campus "hustler," students would joke, "She either wants your blood or your money." But with her reputation for delivering results, they were always eager to get involved, contributing to her countless blood drives and other charitable efforts for those in need.

Sister Mary Ann's hands-on approach is evident in her many personal stories of helping students. One such story involved a student whose car had broken down and who needed money to finish her final semester. Sister Mary Ann helped to find the funds and the student graduated. She later sent Sister Mary Ann a transcript as a token of gratitude. Today, the student is a successful teacher in Florida.

The Sister Mary Ann Helping Hands Fund, created to support the food

pantries at SCCC, has become a vital resource for students facing food insecurity. The annual response to donations has been overwhelmingly generous, enabling the fund to provide food to students and their families during the holidays. Although Sister Mary Ann is now retired from teaching, she remains deeply involved in the fund's activities, personally participating in food distribution efforts, including delivering turkeys and other items for Thanksgiving.

In 2020, Sister Mary Ann expanded the fund to address broader financial needs, creating the Sister Mary Ann College-Wide Hardship Fund. This fund provides financial resources to students facing various hardships, ensuring they have the support they need to complete their academic goals despite unforeseen challenges. Sister Mary Ann believes that no student should be prevented from completing their education due to financial difficulties. The fund is working towards becoming a self-sustaining endowment. Half of this target has already been reached, ensuring the fund's continued support for future generations of students. This endowment will provide long-term sustainability for the fund, ensuring it can continue to help students in need for years.

Reflecting on her faith, Sister Mary Ann emphasizes the importance of compassion and care in her work. She believes that people, despite their struggles, are inherently good and striving to do their best. Her experiences as a teacher and her interactions with students have taught her that understanding and empathy are essential when helping others. Through the Sister Mary Ann Helping Hands Fund, her legacy continues to support students in need, ensuring they have the resources to succeed academically and personally. ●



# The Connections 2009-2024

The idea of *Connections* began at our retreat center in Saugerties, New York. On a crisp autumn day in October 2008, a group of Sisters and former members gathered for a “friends weekend.” It was then that Sister Kathleen Gallagher had the brilliant idea to extend the bonds of friendship we shared by inviting all former members back to Sparkill for a special reunion. We envisioned an afternoon that would celebrate and embrace the lifelong friendships formed during our time in the Congregation. A committee was formed, a date set and the excitement of reaching out to former members began. It felt like our “Day of Dreams”—a moment when we believed, “If we plan it, they will come.” And come they did!

What an unforgettable celebration it turned out to be! Attendees traveled from near and far—California, Texas, Florida, Massachusetts, Long Island, and even the Bronx. On September 26, 2009, the *Connections* committee held its first reunion, with more than 180 Sisters and former members in attendance. For many, it was their first time returning to Sparkill in 20 or 30 years. The day was filled with excitement, joy, tears, and laughter as friends reconnected after what felt like an eternity. Time seemed to stand still, and the Spirit of Sparkill was undeniably present. The event included heartfelt reunions, and the sharing of memories, and concluded in gratitude with Mass at Sacred Heart Chapel.

Fifteen years have passed since that first reunion, and each year (except for the COVID-19 pandemic), this event has become something eagerly anticipated by both Sisters and former members alike. Initially, we thought it would be fitting to hold a reunion every five years, but because of its overwhelming success, we chose to make it a biennial gathering.

Although many of us have followed different paths over the years, the bond formed in Sparkill remains strong. I recall visiting Sparkill when an elderly Sister stopped to ask my name. When I told her I had once been a community member but had moved on, she smiled and gently said, “Once a Sparkill Sister, you will always carry Sparkill in your heart.” How true that is! Every time we come together for a *Connections* event; the unique Spirit of Sparkill shines brightly. The friendships we formed continue to grow, and

the sense of belonging is ever-present. In recent years, age, distance, and the pandemic have kept some from attending these joyous reunions. However, we are deeply grateful to Judy Dolfi, who has kept the spirit alive by creating memorable slideshows and videos, allowing us to connect virtually and continue sharing our stories.



Together again as the Band of 1960.

We were delighted to gather again at the Dominican Convent on Saturday, September 21, for the latest *Connections* reunion. The Community Room was redolent with warmth and joy as Sisters and former members reunited. Judy Dolfi (Band of 1960) said, “No matter how many years pass, we always seem to pick up right where we left off. The camaraderie, friendship, and love we share only grow stronger with time. There’s a profound sense of ‘coming home’ at this gathering—a feeling akin to the comfort of a family reunion, where stories are shared, and memories are cherished.”

After a pleasant social hour with hors d’oeuvres and a delicious meal, the group enjoyed a slideshow created by Judy Dolfi. Sister Irene Ellis warmly welcomed the gathering, and the program continued with a series of historical presentations—our shared family stories. Sister Rose Patrice recounted her cherished memories as one of the first Sparkill Sisters in Pakistan. Sister Mary Dunning spoke about the enduring legacy of Mother Kevin and Sister Leonard, while Sister Jeanne DeClue honored Sister Ann Celestine with her reflections.

The day was filled with gratitude and warmth, as the stories and memories shared deepened our connections. The renewed sense of belonging reminded us of the strength and beauty of our shared history and faith. As the event drew to a close, the photos taken that day captured the essence of our gathering—speaking volumes about the bond we continue to nurture, one that transcends time, distance, and words.

We left that day knowing that no matter how much time passes, our community will always be there, ready to welcome us home. ●

*“No matter how many years pass, we always seem to pick up right where we left off. The camaraderie, friendship, and love we share only grow stronger with time.”*

# Sister Mary Elizabeth Mooney, OP

**Sister Mary Elizabeth Mooney, OP, has been a member of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill for 60 years, including a remarkable 50 years at St. John Chrysostom School in the Bronx, where Sparkill Dominicans have served since the school opened in 1914. She was recognized by the parish community in September 2024 for 50 years of loyal service educating the children of St. John Chrysostom School and continuing the Sparkill Dominican charism there.**

When a former principal retired in 1995, Sister Mary Elizabeth had been teaching for 20 years at St. John's. She believed that God was calling her to lead the school, and she said it was one of the best decisions of her life. She said that she loves the children, their families, and her colleagues.

Sister Mary Elizabeth describes the school community as a place where children receive an excellent education, learn to exceed expectations, and are also kept safe. Many alumni send their children to St. John's, and some are even fourth-generation students! Students tell her they consider the school their "home away from home."

Her work as a principal is a vivid reflection of her life as a woman religious. "I try to bring concern and love for every child in the building, and for my colleagues as well. I treat everyone individually and I try to be a joyful woman of the Gospel," Sister Mary Elizabeth said.

St. John Chrysostom School in the South Bronx emphasizes the four Dominican pillars of study, prayer, community, and service in a family atmosphere where students are supported and taught to give back to their community and share what little they have with those less fortunate. This philosophy is reflected in the many service projects at St. John's, such as coat drives by the second grade for distribution to neighbors in need (specifically recent immigrants from Mexico who do not have winter clothes); food drives for Catholic Charities to provide to food pantries; collecting toiletries for Siena House to distribute to the homeless; and hosting the annual Christmas event for retired Sisters and clergy that included transportation, a student performance, and lunch.

Hundreds of Sparkill Sisters have passed on the Dominican heritage of study, prayer, community, and service since 1914. Currently, Dominican Sisters Mary Elizabeth Mooney, Valorie Lordi (school nurse), and Louise Mileski (pre-k consultant) continue the legacy of the Sparkill Dominicans. ●

*Sister Mary Elizabeth believed that God was calling her to lead the school, and she said it was one of the best decisions of her life. She said that she loves the children, their families, and her colleagues.*



Sister Mary Elizabeth Mooney, OP (center) surrounded by colleagues and alumni.



# Associate Program Continues to Grow



**At Mass on Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Dominican Sisters and Associates of Sparkill joyfully welcomed new Associates Margaret Carney and Karen Ellis. The congregation, present to celebrate, was delighted to witness Margaret and Karen's first commitment to become Sparkill Dominican Associates. Their dedication was further symbolized by the presentation of a pin, a sign of our congregation's promise of support in this new chapter of their lives.**

The celebration continued as we witnessed the renewal of commitment by Associates Frank Cappadona and Margaret Hayes, who did so with great enthusiasm. Marie Morency, Susan O'Brien, and Jill Shields could not join us in person, but they, too, renewed their commitment as Sparkill Dominican Associates by proxy. Their unwavering dedication to the Dominican mission is a source of inspiration for us all.

The Sisters in St. Louis were happy to welcome new Associate, Kathleen Rogers, an alumna of St. Mark's High School, St. Louis, MO. While at St. Mark's, Kathleen was a dancer in the yearly operettas and made rosaries for the missions. The Sisters are delighted

to have Kathy join their Associates in St. Louis, and the whole community looks forward to getting to know her.

Sparkill Dominican Associates are lay women and men who walk with our vowed Dominican Sisters in their ministry for justice and peace among God's people. Depending on their place in life, their participation may vary. They are women and men, working and retired, but their goals are those

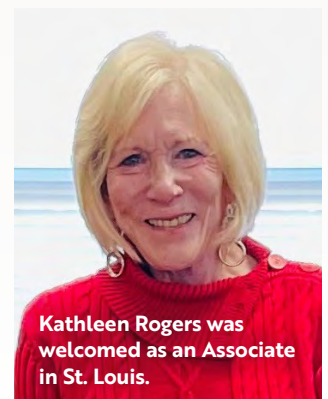


Sisters and Associates celebrate community together.

of the Dominican family: to praise, to bless, to preach. With our Sparkill Sisters, their are blessed to be walking with women who are truly making a difference. Inspired by their history and continued example, Associates journey with them to make a difference in our world today. Learn more at: [Sparkill.org/associates](http://Sparkill.org/associates). ●



Sister Irene Ellis, OP, Prioress, leads prayer with the Associates.



Kathleen Rogers was welcomed as an Associate in St. Louis.



# SPARKS OF LIGHT

*A spark of divine light  
is within each of us!*

— Pope Francis

PHOTO BY DANAWA/GETTY IMAGES

## *Sparks of Light Awards Dinner*

**On November 7, the Dominican Sisters presented the 2024 Veritas Award to three extraordinary individuals.** Mary Anne Evangelist, Ph.D., Educator and Friend of the Congregation; Stephen Pappas, President & CEO, United Way of Rockland County; and Christopher M. Power Assistant Head of School, Albertus Magnus High School. Throughout their lives, each of these honorees has embodied the mission of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill and has wonderfully modeled the ideals and values held by the Congregation.

The event was held again at the Rockleigh. Our brilliant master of ceremonies, Joseph Ripp, a longtime friend of the Sisters acknowledged all our past honorees and their devotion to the Sisters and mission of service.



Ginny Ripp, Dominican Sisters Maureen and Pat Conway, and Joseph Ripp participate at the 2024 Sparks of Light Awards Dinner.

Pope Francis has said that everyone has a divine spark within them. The Veritas Award is presented to individuals whose divine spark lights the world in a special way.

Many donors and friends joined the Albertus Magnus High School choir as they sang our National Anthem directed by Cesar Orozco followed by an Invocation by Sister Nancy Richter, OP.

We are very grateful to our honorees, volunteers, donors, and guests for making this a successful and memorable event. ●



Sister Irene Ellis, Prioress, extends the Sparks of Light Awards to Mary Anne Evangelist, PhD, Stephen Pappas, and Christopher Power.

BACKGROUND BY STEPHANIE ZIEBER/GETTY IMAGES



# Honorees

Mary Anne Evangelist, Ph.D., Stephen Papas, and Christopher M. Power

## Master of Ceremonies

Joseph Ripp

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### **Special Thanks to:**

Chris Marksburly, Photographer  
Multimedia Group USA, NY



The Albertus Magnus High School choir sang the National Anthem, directed by Caesar Orozco.



Dominican Sisters Nancy Richter and Sister Cecilia LaPietra enjoy some conversation with Efrain and Yolanda Aguilar.



(L-R) Dominican Sisters Mary Shea, Margaret Tiernan, Grace Hogan, Mary Gray, Irene Ellis, Aileen Donovan, Catherine Rose Quigley, and Margo Saich.

View the digital journal, honorees' biographies, and *Veritas* Award information at [sparkill.org](http://sparkill.org).

# Meet MARYANN MCMAHON

BY SISTER JEANNE SHARY, OP

If you're looking for someone who embodies creativity, compassion, and a genuine desire to make a difference, look no further than Maryann McMahon. As an educator and children's book author, she has touched the lives of countless children, educators, and families. Her work inspires others to embrace kindness, empathy, and growth.

## A Lifelong Passion for Education and Writing

Maryann's path was influenced by her mother, a teacher, and her formative experiences with the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill at St. Teresa's in Woodside, Queens. From 1969 to 1974, Maryann attended St. Teresa's, where she was inspired by the caring Sisters, particularly Sister Bernadette Nonnon, OP whose engaging teaching style left a lasting impact. The love for learning nurtured by the Sisters became a foundation for Maryann's future.

After attending LaGuardia College, she worked at St. Ignatius Day Nursery with Sister Ann Louise DeGennaro, solidifying her desire to pursue education. Maryann earned a degree at Hunter College and began teaching in 1983, dedicating herself to nurturing young minds. Over the years, she served as a teacher, pre-k director, assistant principal, and more. Alongside her teaching career, Maryann pursued writing, publishing her first children's book, *Vinnie and Vicki, the Vibrant Viruses* in 2000. This marked the start of her dual career in education and literature, where her love for teaching and storytelling combined to convey messages of kindness, empathy, and friendship.

## Writing Books That Inspire and Teach

Maryann's children's books stand out for their heartfelt messages, colorful characters, and emphasis on social-

emotional learning. *Starkey Star* takes young readers on an imaginative journey through the solar system, while *The Little Leftovers* promotes kindness and community through the story of decorating a lonely Christmas tree.

One of her most beloved stories, *Bundles and Buttons' Fall Festival Adventure*, features Bundles, who faces his fear of heights on a Ferris wheel with the support of his friend Buttons the Bunny. This story teaches children the importance of friendship and confronting fears together. Maryann's writing fosters emotional intelligence and imparts life lessons on empathy, cooperation, and self-confidence. Her upcoming book on dental health continues this mission by teaching healthy habits in a fun and accessible way.

## Positive Messages on Every Page

A hallmark of Maryann's work is her dedication to delivering positive messages. Her books reflect her belief in kindness, empathy, and resilience. By focusing on social-emotional learning, Maryann helps children understand their emotions, build relationships, and develop the confidence to face challenges. Maryann's stories are more than entertainment—they are transformative, offering valuable lessons that children will carry with them as they grow.

## Community Connections and Support

In addition to her work as an educator and author, Maryann has built strong connections within her local community. A regular at Donovan's Pub, she collaborates with owners Jimmy Jacobson and Danny Connor on events and book signings. Jimmy, a graphic designer, even illustrated one of Maryann's books, *St. Patrick's Day Special Present from Puddles*, a heartwarming story about a young boy helping his friend find a special St.



Patrick's Day gift. These collaborations reflect Maryann's commitment to bringing people together through creativity and storytelling. At Donovan's Pub, Maryann fosters an environment where people share stories and learn from one another.

## A Legacy of Education and Mentorship

Maryann's extensive experience in education has profoundly shaped her philosophy as both an educator and an author. Maryann has always believed in the transformative power of learning. This dedication to fostering growth in children is evident in her teaching approach and her books. Maryann's influence extends beyond the classroom, inspiring others to pursue careers in teaching and make a lasting impact on young lives. A testament to this is her best friend Mary Jane's son, Sean, who became a successful teacher thanks to Maryann's mentorship and guidance.

## A Life of Positivity and Impact

Maryann McMahon's life and career are defined by positivity, creativity, and a lasting impact on the lives of others. From her work as a teacher to her role as an author, she has dedicated herself to improving the lives of children, educators, and families. Her stories offer more than just entertainment—they provide valuable lessons in kindness, empathy, and resilience. As we look forward to the next chapter in Maryann's inspiring journey, we eagerly anticipate the continued impact of her creativity, positivity, and heartfelt stories. The Sisters are grateful to call her a friend and look forward to her next story. ●



# A SPECIAL COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY —

## Our *Veritas* Society

*Veritas* (“Truth”) is one of the mottos of the Order of Preachers – the Dominicans. It points to the heart of the Dominican Tradition: to be messengers of the liberating power of truth and the embodiment of Truth in the person of Jesus.



### The benefits of being a member of The *Veritas* Society are:

- Knowledge that your legacy gift will help the Sisters and their ministries continue far into the future
- A *Veritas* Society Lapel pin
- An elegant membership certificate
- *Veritas* Society notecards
- Special communications and events with the Sisters
- Potential tax deductions as the result of your generous donations
- Recognition in the Annual Report and in other publications (if desired)

When you join **The *Veritas* Society**, you receive a beautiful lapel pin based on the *Veritas* mosaic, which points to the heart of the Dominican tradition: to be messengers of truth. In addition to a welcome package, you will receive special communications, event invitations, and recognition in a variety of publications, if desired. One of these publications is our bi-annual magazine, *Weavings* where we feature a story from one of the *Veritas* Society Members, sharing how the Dominican Sisters have positively impacted their lives.

Meet members of The *Veritas* Society by visiting [sparkill.org/join-our-donor-society](http://sparkill.org/join-our-donor-society)

**The Dominican Sisters benefit every day from the gifts that donors make, whether for their safety, care, independence, or for their ministries and missionary activities. You are remembered daily in their communal prayers.**



I have included the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill in my estate planning.

**Please send me information on The *Veritas* Society.**

I would like to receive information on how to make a gift to the Sisters through my will/bequest, beneficiary designation, or charitable trust. **Please send me the *Ways to Give* booklet.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to speak to someone in Mission Advancement, please contact, Dr. David Coppola at 845-359-4179 or email: [dcoppola@sparkill.org](mailto:dcoppola@sparkill.org). Thank you and God bless you!

# THIRD ANNUAL CYCLING FOR PEACE

The 4th Annual Cycling for Peace, which is sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, was held this year on Saturday, September 28 on the grounds of Dominican Convent and St. Thomas Aquinas College. This annual event drew a large crowd of friends and supporters of all ages.

Cyclists, walkers, and runners were able to follow two marked routes on the properties. Everyone who registered received a free t-shirt and enjoyed the food, contests, and games.

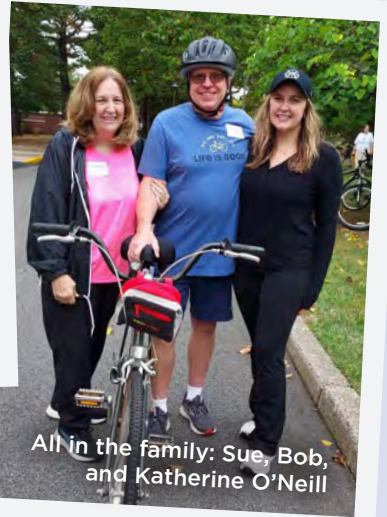
The Sisters were happy to have the event at their motherhouse and came out to say “hello” to friends and family who stopped by ... and to have some of the delicious desserts that were donated!

Although later in the day we had some showers, it did not dampen anyone’s spirits. Our volunteers kept the contests going and handed out free samples of earth-friendly products (in the spirit of *Laudato Si*).

Siena Hall Sisters participated in the fun by having their own inside “Walk and Wheel.” With the generosity of the sponsors, donors, and participants, we were able to raise over \$30,000! Many thanks and see you next year ... and bring a friend! ●



Nancy Boylan and Sister Chris Ferrar, OP



All in the family: Sue, Bob, and Katherine O'Neill



Riders from St. Thomas Aquinas College.



Miriam, Sister Pat Hogan, OP, and Maximillian Booker with his father.





*“The signs of the times compel us to act collaboratively, broadening our circles of relationships and entering into diverse partnerships.”* — Direction Statement 2022

We have a long and vibrant history of connecting with others whose mission aligns with ours. Proyecto Faro is an organization with whom we connect, whose mission includes the following: *We are motivated in part by the Spirit shared across religious boundaries, that our God commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

BY SISTER EILEEN GANNON

## Proyecto Faro Visit

BY YESENIA KOPPERMAN

After a summer of cancellations due to COVID, the Mission Outreach Committee had the pleasure of welcoming Proyecto Faro staff and volunteers to Dominican Convent on October 29, 2024.

The presentation led by Tammy Arnstein, Director of Development and Strategic Communications, and Dilcia Suazo, Acting Co-Executive Director, gave the Sisters an insight into the many services and programs available to the immigrant community in Rockland County and how the organization itself has evolved since its inception. These services include a legal empowerment clinic, a food aid program, a free store with gently used items such as clothing, toys, and household items, and assistance with housing insecurity. We also heard from other staff members and volunteers who not only shared their roles and responsibilities but their own personal stories and journeys as well.

One of the main topics of discussion was the East Ramapo School District and the daily challenges faced by students and parents due to the dismantling of programs and services. Proyecto Faro, in partnership with other organizations, is working to connect parents in the district and empower them with the necessary resources to build a safe and enriching educational environment for students.

Proyecto Faro expressed their gratitude to the Dominican Sisters' for opening their home and for the support, generosity, and presence the Sisters have shared since the beginning. They

look forward to forging a more active relationship and collaboration with Sisters and Associates. If you are interested in learning more about Proyecto Faro, please visit their website [proyectofarorockland.org](http://proyectofarorockland.org). ●



Dilcia Zuazo and Tammy Arnstein speak about Proyecto Faro with the Sisters at Dominican Convent.

## One to One: A Conversation with Yolanda Aguilar

BY BERNADETTE DONOHUE, CMP

Yolanda Aguilar and her husband Efrain came to New York via El Salvador in 1997, having no strong grasp of the English language. They discovered Sister Cecilia LaPietra, OP, and One to One at St. John's Church 1999 in Piermont when an announcement was made for anyone interested in English lessons. In the beginning, they attended classes in the basement of the church, and later Sister Nancy Richter, OP and Judy Platt would come to her home twice a week. They would take Yolanda and her 2 boys to medical appointments. This was such a gift to the family as they pursued the American dream.

Yolanda describes Sister Cecilia as a very special human being and considers her family. The largest impact for her and Efrain is that this opportunity to learn English in a very special way helped her to secure a great job as an attorney assistant helping with reconciliations.

Yolanda now works for a PR Healthcare company in a global position. Efrain has his own landscaping business that in the winter is a bit challenging, especially with so little snow for the plows. Yolanda is grateful to One to One and gives back as often as possible. Sister Cecilia and the team are a true gift!

As a thank you, a special traditional dish was given to the Sisters called Pupusas. ●



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# DOMINICANS *in Art*

BY ELIZABETH SLENKER, OP,  
A SPARKILL DOMINICAN, PRESIDENT OF DIA

The Dominican Institute for the Arts is an organization established in 1998 for Dominican Artists. The goal of DIA (Dominican Institute for the Arts) is to preach the Word of God through Art. It includes all forms of art from painting to pottery, to poetry, to performance, to photography. Preaching the Word of God can be sacred movement, creations in fabric art, greeting cards, or the 62 other art forms in which our members are involved to enliven and enrich the lives of those to whom we minister.

Our Patron is Blessed Fra Angelico, an early 15th Century, early Renaissance Dominican Friar artist whose works created 500 years ago remain as fresh and inspiring today as they were for those who first beheld them. Each year one DIA participant is honored as the recipient of the Fra Angelico Award for excellence in artistic achievement. There are stringent requirements to be met to receive this honor.

Over the course of DIA's 27 years more than 500 Dominicans have participated in the organization. Some have been long term members since the beginning, and others for only a short time. For the 25th Anniversary, 12 members whom we call "the long-haulers," received a 25th Anniversary pin.

Art in its many forms touches the heart and soul of those who view or participate and influence other artists to more contemplative creativity. The simplest design can inspire another to conjure amazing possibilities. When an artist freely releases a work, it can impress the imagination of others who use the initial idea to build an amazing work of art that can impact a great number of people. It may be years later that the originator of the initial piece learns the affect the work has influenced on someone's life and creative juices.

Preaching the Word of God Through Art is not a one-time sermon, heard and often forgotten, but a lasting homily that continues to Preach the Word of God. Have you ever been so moved by the work of art that it brought you to tears? That is preaching not forgotten, and the art form continues to preach. Think of Michelangelo's powerful *Pieta* that has influenced so much art.

Each year during the summer Dominican artists from all over the United States as well as from other countries gather to meet, to enjoy each other, to nourish the artistic soul, to share art, both virtually



Elizabeth Slenker  
recipient, 2016



Fra Angelico  
Award



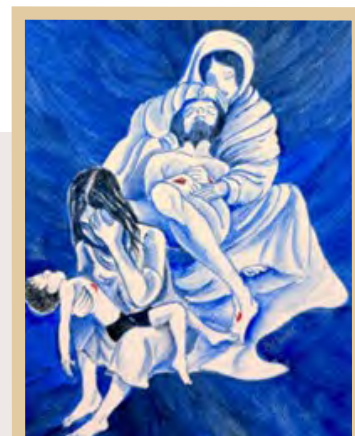
Fra Angelico for Dominican  
Saints Series  
by Elizabeth Slenker



Medieval work



Michelangelo's Pieta



Will It Ever Stop?  
by Elizabeth Slenker



as well as fresh art works in what each is creating. A keynote speaker draws on personal experience in order to give the members food for contemplative thought and refuel the creative juices of the members. During the year we also meet via Zoom to share what each is currently creating.

To create takes courage. Recently a new word was coined, “creageous” (a combination of creativity and courage). A woman was being videoed while advocating the importance of being courageous in ones’ creativity. She was so enthusiastic about the idea, that in an earnest slip of the tongue, she got her words tangled up. Creative and Courageous accidentally came out as one word when she declared, “We need to be CREAGEOUS! I offer you the blessings of this same word, that you just not be creative, but also creageous in your artistic expression!

I, Sister Elizabeth Slenker, a Sparkill Dominican, am presently the President of DIA. It’s not something I wanted, but it happened. I take the responsibility to do the best I can for this organization but know it takes CREAGEOUS effort to fulfill the honor of this role. ●



25th Anniversary pin designed by Elizabeth Slenker

(Above) Members receiving 25th Anniversary pin (left to right): Elizabeth Slenker, Sparkill; Barbara Schwarz, Amityville; Pat Daly, Peace Associate (President giving out pins); Joeann Daley, Sinsinawa; Brigid Bray, San Jose; Anita Smisek, Sinsinawa; Irene Mary Diones, San Jose; Mary Pat Reid, Caldwell. The other recipients were unable to attend the gathering.



**If you are an artist – beginner, casual, professional or dabbler – and would like to participate in feeding your creative soul, we would like to encourage you to join our amazing, creative, courageous, “creageous” group.** For further information you can email [Artafire@hotmail.com](mailto:Artafire@hotmail.com) or [slenkeree@yahoo.com](mailto:slenkeree@yahoo.com).



Fra Angelico painting Annunciation by Elizabeth Slenker



Annual Gathering in St. Louis, 2022

# 2025 HONOR ROLL

## DONATIONS TO THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL

Gifts listed here were made between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

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# THE GIFT OF GOD IS *eternal life*

We remember our Dominican Sisters and Associates  
who entered eternal life in 2024.



**Sister Mary Joyce**

*January 4, 2024*



**Sister Dolores Fisher**

*January 8, 2024*



**Sister Jeanne Deas**

*February 10, 2024*



**Sister Carole Valentino**

*March 28, 2024*



**Associate Dorothy Tetreault**

*May 17, 2024*



**Sister Rose Mary Bira**

*May 27, 2024*



**Sister Bridget Kiniry**

*June 2, 2024*



**Sister Catherine Viggiano**

*June 22, 2024*



**Sister Elizabeth Ehlers**

*July 17, 2024*



**Sister Elizabeth Therese Hurteau**

*July 19, 2024*



**Sister Marie Daugherty**

*December 9, 2024*

*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and let perpetual light  
shine upon them.*

For more information visit, [sparkill.org/in-memoriam](https://sparkill.org/in-memoriam).

To make a donation to honor a Sister and her legacy, please visit [sparkill.org](https://sparkill.org)  
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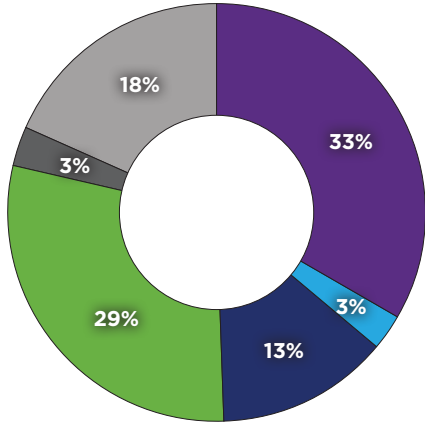
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*Fiscal Year 2024 | September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024*

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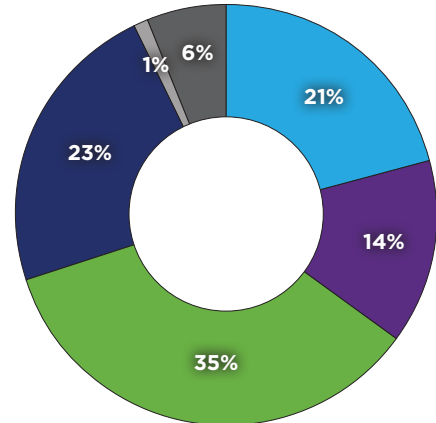
## Revenue

Sisters Compensation	33%
Property Income	3%
Gift Income	13%
Investment Income	29%
Other-nonrecurring	3%
Retirement Reserves	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



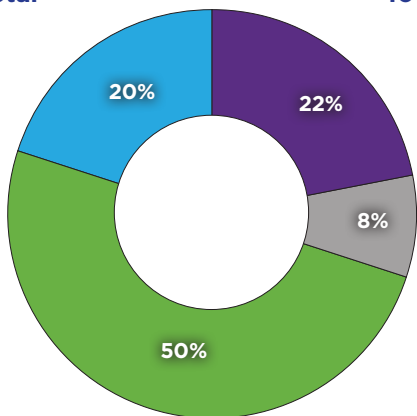
## Expenses

Administration	21%
Heath & Wellness/Skilled Care	14%
Sisters Living Expenses	35%
Congregational Properties	23%
Ministry Grants/Contribution	1%
Fundraising	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Mission Advancement Source of Gifts

Estates/Bequests	22%
Foundations	8%
Friends & Family	50%
Special Events	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



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# Annual Golf Tournament

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BLUE HILL GOLF COURSE  
PEARL RIVER, NEW YORK

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